

'Great Spy Mission' at Loew's Palace

Secret Weapons & Saboteurs

By TISHA O'NEILL

For someone born after World War II, V-2 rockets or flying bombs are about as familiar as an island in the Baltic called Peenemunde. But after previewing "The Great Spy Mission, or, Operation Crossbow", opening today at Loew's Palace, it's all very clear.

Sabotage is the theme of this movie, with as much action thrown in as anyone could ask for.

It begins in London, with a conference between Winston Churchill and one of his right-hand men, Duncan Sands. British reconnaissance has photos which prove beyond almost any doubt that the Germans have a new secret weapon. After many hurried discussion, Sands portrayed by Richard Johnson, orders the sites of these testing grounds destroyed even tho Sands adviser, Dr. Lindemann (Trevor Howard) — strongly disagreed. The next step is to sabotage the German engineers and scientists working on new and more powerful weapons. Three men are chosen: George Peppard, Tom Courtenay and Jeremy Kemp. All are engineers, officers, and, more important, they all resemble dead German engineers. They are rigorously trained and then dropped over Germany, seconds before the order comes to halt the entire mission.

The agents run into all sorts of trouble, worst of which is the appearance of Sophia Loren, wife of a dead engineer being impersonated by Peppard.



GEORGE PEPPARD and SOPHIA LOREN

There is just the smallest hint of a love story before tragedy strikes.

Two of the allied saboteurs are finally sent to the underground testing area, where they learn the secret the Germans almost kept — that they had fantastically powered rockets capable of destroying New York.

The excitement of this movie doesn't let up for a moment. I appreciated the taste of the director in not filling it with unnecessary words. He lets the action take over.

"The Great Spy Mission" definitely comes on, and for a lot of adventure — all based on fact — good, honest acting and, importantly, taste, don't miss it.